

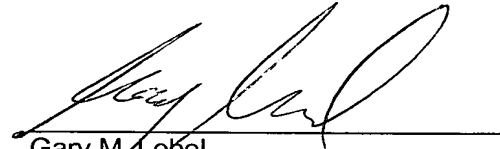
22. (new) The system according to claim 16 wherein the tested fiber is fructooligosaccharide, glucooligosaccharide, pecticoligosaccharide, galactooligosaccharide, soyoligosaccharide, isomaltooligosaccharide, guar gum, hydrolyzed guar gum and/or mixtures thereof.

#### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments to claims 1 through 18 and new claims 20 through 22 and the cancellation of claim 19 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the pending claims and the new claims do not introduce new matter. The basis for the new and amended claims can be found in the original claims and the specification.

Novartis  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
One Health Plaza, Building 104  
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080  
(862) 778-7954

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Lobel  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 51,155

Date: 28 March 2006